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ABSTRACT

A cost analysis study of the Association of Research Libraries' member institutions who have depository status was conducted in order to evaluate the benefits received from the federal depository system. Information received from a small sample of the member libraries provides the basis for discussion of costs and benefits. Cost factors considered include staff needs, space needs, equipment costs, outreach and program costs, access to commercial reference tools, and discarding documents. Benefits examined concern (1) time saved by receiving material unsolicited as opposed to manning a major acquisitions program for documents, (2) savings of receiving a large body of material free of charge, and (3) savings in original cataloging if a library belongs to OCLC. A bibliography and a list of commercial reference tools are provided. (FM)

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COST AND BENEFITS OF FEDERAL DEPOSITORY STATUS FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

May 1979

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PREFACE

At the American Library Association mid-winter meeting in Washington D.C. during January, 1979, a small group of Government Documents Round Table members met with the Association of Research Libraries' newsletter editor. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways of promoting the federal depository libraries within ARL so the total membership would have a better understanding of the benefits received from depository status. This purpose grew in importance as a revision of Title 44 was to be introduced in Congress sometime this year.

It was decided that a cost analysis study of ARL member libraries who are depositories would provide the best method of showing the benefits received from this program. A committee was formed from the members present to identify areas to be included in the study and to funnel any additional information to me to include in the final report. While the committee members worked hard and provided invaluable support, the final report and any mistakes are mine alone.

Sandra K. Faull
May 1979

Committee Members

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Detroit Public Library

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INTRODUCTION

The Federal Depository System was developed to provide free access to government publications for the general public. The various agencies of the federal government publish information on almost every topic known to man. It was logical to assume that the majority of the members of the Association for Research Libraries would be depository libraries and that they would be heavily used by their clientele.

To prove this assumption, Mr. James Beattie of the Association of Research Libraries conducted a survey of the ARL members in the spring of 1979. His questions and the answers are listed below.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY OF ARL MEMBERS IN THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY PROGRAM

There are 95 ARL members in the United States. 83 responded to Mr. Beattie's survey.

1. Is your library system a federal depository library?

   81 yes 2 no

2. If so, is your library a regional depository library?

   16 yes 67 no

3. If your library is a federal depository library but not a regional, what percentage does your library select?

Percent of items selected	Number of Libraries
100%	16
more than 95%	25
90%	10
80%	12
70%	9
60%	5
50%	2
30%	1
20%	1

4. On the average, how many reference questions concerning federal documents does your depository answer per day?

Questions answered	Number of Libraries
more than 200	1

Question 4 con't

Questions answered	Number of Libraries
110	1
100	3
90	2
80	7
70	5
60	5
50	9
40	16
30	9
20	10
10	10
no data	4

A little over 1/2 (49) of the respondants answer on the average, 40 or more questions using federal documents a day.

This survey and the total contents of this report are based on the study of seperate documents collections and their use. Many federal depository libraries catalog material received on depository. This material ends up in the general collection, the reference collection or in a branch library. Because of this factor, the reference and circulation statistics for documents departments are lower than might otherwise be the case.

Since the survey results show a strong involvement with federal government publications among ARL members, a closer look at specific cost and benefits for federal depository documents is in order. Four libraries were chosen to provide more details about their handling of federal depository items. These libraries were chosen on three criteria: 1) they volunteered to participate 2) they were either members or in the process of becoming members of ARL 3) diverse geographical locations were desired. The sample was kept small so a complete return of the questionaire in a short time span would result.

The four libraries and the contact person in documents are: Yale University, Michelle Sullivan; University of New Mexico-Zimmerman Library, Bill Olbrich; Penn State University, Diane Smith; and Duke University, Susan McDonald.

The four sample libraries receive a large portion of all material available on depository. The percentage of depository library selection for each is:

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
97%	85%	98%	100% (regional)

The following areas will be discussed based on information received from the sample libraries: staff needs, space needs, equipment costs, outreach and program costs, discards and benefits. The final result of the study of the cost factors will be a total cost of setting up a major depository collection in one year. Please note this is not an annual cost as some areas discussed are fixed costs and others vary. Space costs and equipment costs will deprieciate over a period of years while staff costs are fixed. Benefits also will vary from year to year in monetary terms as production costs for documents increase or decrease.

STAFF NEEDS

The documents department in any library has never-ending work. The number of staff involved in documents has a major impact on the services provided by that department. Staffing varies from library to library and so do costs. The national average for ARL member libraries are given first to provide a comparison for the sample libraries.

NUMBER AND AVERAGE SALARY OF ALL ACADEMIC RESEARCH LIBRARIANS[1]

	Salary
Department Head, Documents and maps, both men and women	$ 17,500
Other (Documents and Reference librarians etc.)	
Years of experience	
under 5	$12,871
5-9	$15,106
10-15	$16,606
over 15	$17,586

There are no figures available from ARL that provide a national average for clerical salaries.

[1]Annual Salary Survey 1977-1978, Association of Research Libraries, November, 1978, Table 1, p. 24.

The following information is from the sample libraries:

Total Number of Staff working with federal documents:

Yale	Duke*	Penn State*	UNM
10	8	21	4.5

*Staff at Penn State and Duke also responsible for state and international documents and reference services dealing with law and political science.

	Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
Total Professional	2	1	4	1
Clerical	4	4	3	2
Library Assistants	N/A	N/A	2	N/A
Student Assistants	4	1 F.T.E.	10	1.5
Desk Aides	N/A	N/A	3	N/A
LENGTH OF SERVICE				
Professional	8 yrs.	7 yrs.	18.75 yrs.	6 yrs.
Clerical	16 yrs.	ave. 9 mo.	12.5 yrs.	14 yrs.
Library Assistant	N/A	N/A	8 yrs.	N/A
If not full-time percent of time or hours per week:				
Professional	N/A	N/A	N/A	40 hrs.
Clerical	N/A	N/A	45 hrs.	80 hrs.
Student Assistants	40 hrs.	50 hrs	105 hrs.	80 hrs.
SALARIES TOTAL	$70,000	$68,000	$113,196	$30,000
Professional	30,000	30,000	N/A	14,000
Clerical	37,000	30,000	N/A	16,000

The student assistant salaries are not included in the breakdown of salaries which results in some libraries having a higher salaries total figure than the two catagories added together.

SPACE NEEDS

Since federal documents grow faster than any other section of the library, space is a very important consideration. There are no national figures for space requirements

for federal documents collections.

A. Total sq. feet of floor space devoted to federal documents (include work and office space as well as collection space)

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
approx. 13,000 sq. ft.	approx. 10,500 sq. ft.	15,136 sq. ft.	5,607 sq. ft.

B. Total feet of shelf space in linear feet for federal documents

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
12,182	20,448	9,000	11,820

To be accurate in developing a cost figure for the space requirements of each sample library, the total square feet of the individual library is needed in addition to total overhead costs (heat, light etc) and the depreciation factor of the building. Once a value per square foot of the current building is obtained, a figure for federal documents space can also be obtained. These figures for the sample libraries were not available to the author.

A cost figure for building comparable facilities today for each of the sample libraries was developed. The average cost of a new academic library per square foolt is $ 36.84.[1] Using this figure to reach a replacement cost for each of the sample libraries, the following figures were developed:

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
$ 478,920	$ 386,820	$ 557,610.24	$ 206,561.88

For further discussion on the space needs for documents collections in research libraries, Catherine Reynolds' "Planning Space for the Government Documents Collections in Research Libraries", October, 1977. ERIC Document No. ED 152 310 should be consulted No. cost figures are included in this report but it is a valuable discussion on types of space needs in research libraries.

EQUIPMENT COSTS

With the huge increase in micropublishing by the Government Printing Office, more and more depository libraries are buying microform equipment. The national figures for depository libraries based on the Biennial Report of Depository Libraries October, 1977, show the following:

Total answering the questionaire 1217

32. What microfiche reading equipment does your library have?

Reader	950
Reader/Printer	810
Adaptor for the micoprint readers.	241

[1]The Bowker Annual, 1978, page 294 table 2

Question 32 con't

Reader and Reader/Printer	487
Reader/Printer and Adaptor for other microprint and readers	10
Reader and Adaptor for other microprint readers	169
No answer	94

The sample libraries answered differently phrased questions which reveal the following:

	Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
Number of microfilm readers in documents department	1	0	2	0
Number of microfiche readers in documents department	3	2*	7*	1
Number of photocopy machines in documents department	none access to others	0	none, access to others	none, access to others
Number of fiche to fiche duplicators in documents department	access to one	0	access to one	0
Number of reader printers in documents department	access to two	0	2	0

*one of Duke's microfiche readers and two of Penn State's microfiche readers are microprint readers.

If the sample libraries wished to replace all of their microform equipment at today's costs, the figures would be:

	Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
Cost of microfilm reader @ $795 per unit	$795	N/A	$1590	N/A
Cost of microfiche reader @ $250	$750	$250	$1750	$250
Cost of microprint reader @ $850 per unit	N/A	$850	$1700	N/A
Total cost for microform equipment	$1545	$1100	$5040	$250

All of the sample libraries also use card catalogs to store shelflist cards and perhaps public card catalogs. While this is not an annual expense, adding additional units as needed is a cost that often is overlooked. With the increase in on-line and COM catalogs, documents may some day be included and the costs for card storage will not be needed. Other costs for computer technology will replace it and may or may not be cheaper than card catalogs. Until then; the following costs for the sample libraries are given:

Number of card catalog sections used to house shelflist and/or subject and author cards for federal documents: (one section contains 72 drawers)

	Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
No. of Sections	5	4	2	2
Cost of card catalog if purchased at one time @ $1650 per section	$8250	$6600	$3300	$3300

The total equipment costs for the sample libraries to replace microform equipment and card catalogs at today's prices would be:

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
$9795	$7700	$8340	$3550

OUTREACH AND PROGRAM COSTS

One of the obligations of all depository libraries is to promote the use of federal documents[1]. This is done in many ways, through orientation, library instruction, publicity campaigns, and workshops for other libraries. This obligation is taken seriously by many depository libraries. It is difficult to put a cost figure on these services as the documents department is only one part of the library. Many of the elements involved in promoting documents such as photocopying may be lumped in with the total library's expenses.

On the national scene, the Biennial Report of Depository Libraries, 1977 shows that a majority of depository libraries do consider outreach important. When question 8; which asks if libraries issue press releases or provide reviews of documents to the local news media is combined with question 9; which asks if programs for informing community groups or other libraries of new publications or services provided by the depository library, a total of 667 libraries out of 1217 respondants provide outreach. This is 54.9% of all participants.

The sample libraries responded to the following question:

Any additional cost of being a depository in outreach and program costs such as ads in the local phone book, posters or bibliographies printed, workshops given etc.

[1]Guidelines for the Depository Library System as adopted by the Depository Libray Council to the Public Printer, October 18, 1977, section 9-5.

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
workshops given but costs not available.	costs are absorbed by photo services @ $550 a yr.	Cost of class-related instruction for the period of time from Winter term 1977-Fall 1978 includes professional and staff teaching costs, photo-copy costs, and paper $1,773.27. This provided instruction to 61 classes or $1.18 per student. Other outreach costs not available.	Library Instruction provided, costs not available.

COMMERCIAL REFERENCE TOOLS

One of the major problems in using federal depository materials has been the difficulty in gaining access to specific titles because of a lack of bibliographic control. The production of this material is dispersed throughout the federal government, making it difficult for one central agency such as the Government Printing Office or the National Technical Information Service to provide complete bibliographic coverage of all federally produced material in their indexes. Many commerical publishers have noted this lack of bibliographic control and have developed various products to meet librarie's reference needs in regard to federal publications.

The author has developed a list of the major commercial reference tools needed in any library that has a large department of federal documents. These tools provide bibliographic access to federal publications. Only in-print titles have been listed. Complete runs of serial reference tool costs have been given. For that reason, the total cost of all the tools listed is not an annual cost but rather a current cost for all the major commercial reference tools if purchased at one time.

Many indexes listed have a microfiche or microfilm collection which complements the indexes. None of these non-print collections have been included in this list or in the prices quoted. Some commercial publishers have a sliding scale of prices based on the library's budget. Since one of the requirements of ARL membership is a large library budget, the highest price charged on a sliding scale has been used. The list of commercial reference tools is based on the reference collection at the University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library. The prices for each entry have been found in current ads, Books in Print 1978-79 and Publishers Trade List Annual 1978.

COMMERCIAL REFERENCE TOOLS

Author or Publisher and Title	Retrospective Cost	Current Cost
American Library Association, Government Documents Round Table. Directory of Government Documents Collections and Librarians.		$ 22.50
Ames. Comprehensive index to the Publications of the United States, 1881-1893.		105.00

REFERENCE TOOLS CON'T

Author or Publisher and Title	Retrospective Cost	Current Cost
Andriot. Guide to U.S. Government Publications. 5 vols. issued semiannually. (One yr's subcription)		$ 150.00
Carrollton Press. Cummulative Subject Index to the Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications, 1900-1971.		1160.00
Carrollton Press & United States Documents Institute. Declassified documents, Retrospective and Annual (1975-) Collections.		4155.00
Carrollton Press. Cummulative Subject Index to the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications, 1885-1899		195.00
Carrollton Press. Cummulative Subject Guide to U.S. Government Bibliographies, 1924-1973.		695.00
Congressional Information Service. American Statistics Index, 1974-	1970-1977 $1530.00	910.00
Congressional Information Service. CIS Index, 1970-	1970-1977 $2930.00	690.00
Congressional Information Service. CIS U.S. Serial Set Index, 1789-1968.		4320.00
Harelston R. & Stoffle, C. Administration of Government Documents Collections.		10.00
Infordata International Inc. Index to United States Government Periodicals, 1974-	1974-1977 $800.00	200.00
Jackson, E. Subject Guide to Major U.S. Government Documents.		6.00
Kanely, E. Cummulative Index to Hickox's Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications, 1885-1894		275.00

REFERENCE TOOES CON'T

Author or Publisher and Title	Retrospective Cost	Current Cost
Leidy, W. A Popular Guide to Government Publications.		$ 25.00
U.S. Historical Documents Institute. Cummulative Title Index to U.S. Government Publications, 1789-1976. 16 vol.		1450.00
U.S. Historical Documents Institute. Checklist of U.S. Public Documents, 1789-1976.		325.00
Mechanic, S. Annotated List of Selected U.S. Government Publications available to depository Libraries.		16.00
Morehead, J. Introduction to U.S. Public Documents.		17.50
Pohle, L. Guide to Popular Government Publications: For Libraries and Home Use.		9.50
Poole, M. Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications 1895-1924 with SuDocs class. no. added.		2160.00
_____. Documents Office Classification.		295.00
_____. Hickox's Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications, 1885-1894 with SuDocs Class. No. added.		420.00
Poore. A Descriptive Catalog of the government publications of the United States, September 5, 1774 - March 4, 1881		105.00
Schoor, A. Government Reference Books, 1974-75.		11.50
_____. Government Documents in the Library Literature, 1909-1974.		6.95

REFERENCE TOOLS CON'T

Author or Publisher and Title	Retrospective Cost	Current Cost
Wynkoop, S. Government Reference Books, 1970-71.		$ 8.50
_____. Subject Guide to Government Reference Books, 1972.		11.50
Total Retrospective Cost	$5260.00	
Total Current Cost		$17,744.95
TOTAL		$23,004.95

DISCARDING DOCUMENTS

As mentioned earlier, the documents collection grows faster than any other collection. Discarding or weeding becomes a primary concern due to the space limitations each depository library faces sooner or later. In addition, many depository libraries have purchased backfiles of certain federal publications on microfilm to conserve space and then weed the paper copies of this same material in their collections. Not every documents department is able to figure out the cost of weeding federal depository material because other sections in the library are responsible or it is done when it can be fit into the work load. Research libraries have a greater demand for retrospective materials than smaller college and public libraries who have federal depository status. As a result, weeding is more selective in most research libraries.

The question asked of the sample libraries on discarding federal documents:

What does it cost your library to discard documents?

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
N/A	@ $1500 a year	@ $500 a year	N/A

The major cost elements in administering a federal depository collection in a research library have been explored. A total cost for each of the sample libraries is provided below. This total represents an estimated cost at current prices to duplicate the services and equipment for federal depository documents at each of the sample libraries. Some of the catagories did not apply to all of the sample libraries. In other catagories, the sample libraries did not have cost figures available. These factors make a comparision impossible. The total figure for each of the libraries will provide an idea of the amount of money invested by academic institutions in support of the federal depository program.

	Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
Total Salaries	$ 70,000	$ 68,000	$ 113,196	$ 30,000
Current space replacement costs	$ 478,920	$ 386,820	$ 557,610.24	$ 206,561.88

TOTAL COSTS CON'T

	Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
Outreach and program costs	N/A	$ 550	$ 1,773.27	N/A
Current equipment replacement costs	$ 9,795	$ 7700	$ 8,340	$ 3,550
Commercial reference tools current costs	23,004.95	$23,004.95	$ 23,004.95	$ 23,004.95
Discarding documents	N/A	$ 1,500	$ 500	N/A
TOTAL	$581,324.95	$461,119.95	$701,134.46	$263,116.83

BENEFITS

Now that cost factors have been considered, the many benefits received from depository status should also be examined. These include time saved by receiving material unsolicited as opposed to manning a major acquisitions program for documents; the major savings of receiving a large body of material free instead of paying for it; and more recently savings in original cataloging if a library belongs to OCLC.

COST OF ORDERING FEDERAL DOCUMENTS

To appreciate the ease and cost savings involved in being a depository library, the sample libraries were asked how much it cost them to order non-depository federal documents. While this material is only a small part of each library's collections, the cost of obtaining it is high.

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
$4150	$ 750 Doc. Ex. $ 970 CIS $3,875 ASI non-depository collection $4,595 total	$9,959 CIS and ASI	$6250 cost of CIS & ASI non-depository collections plus a year of NTIS

The sample libraries gave cost figures for federal documents collections acquired from commercial publishers. If each item received from a depository library had to be requested by letter, the cost would be enormous. The sample libraries received the following federal documents on depository last year:

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
24,245	29,551*	50,000*	30,000

* Congressional bills included in count

It should be pointed out that no standard method of counting federal documents currently exsists. This results in each depository library having its' own unique method of counting federal documents. Comparison of figures in this area among libraries

is impossible because of the lack of a standard method of counting federal documents.

If each business letter costs @ $ 5.00 to prepare, type, and mail, the costs to each of the sample libraries for last year's material would be:

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
$121,225	$147,755	$250,000	$150,000

These costs do not include the over 3,000 depository items which are also available for sale from the Government Printing Office.[1] This factor is covered in the next section.

ACTUAL COST OF MATERIALS RECEIVED FREE THROUGH DEPOSITORY DISTRIBUTION

The most obvious benefit of the depository library system is the free material received. While many publications sent out on depository are part of the Government Printing Office sales program, many more are not for sale. This creates difficulties in establishing a cash value for a year's worth of depository materials. Several sample collections of federal documents have been examined for cost and are presented below in an attempt to establish the value of this material.

Many federal publications included in the depository program are serial in nature. The Government Printing Office provides Price List 36 which includes 436[2] serials available on a subscription basis. Using the latest Price List 36, edition 173, issued in May, 1979, the total cost of subscribing to all 436 titles is $24,137.85 The average price for a subcription is $55.36. One reason this figure is high is the inclusion of major serial collections. For example, a year's worth of hearings cost $5,500 per session of Congress.

In addition to the serials cost, a basic reference collection of federal documents is listed below. All items are available on depository and have the current price listed for each title.

Two basic groups of important reference material that are published by Federal Government agencies and their current prices are listed below. List A is the titles which the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer of the Government Printing Office has developed. All depository libraries are supposed to select these items. List B contains additional reference material that the Continuing Education Committee of the Government Documents Association of New Jersey felt were so important that every library should own them. This list was created to help the author hold a workshop for public and school libraries in New Jersey in 1977.[3] The starred items in list A means they also are part of list B.

List A

*The Budget Documents:

The Budget of the United States Government, 1980	$ 4.25
The Budget of the United States Government, 1980, Appendix	12.00

[1]from telephone conversation with Jeanne Isacco, Chief, Records Branch, GPO.

[2]each part and volume priced seperately was counted as an individual title

[3]Faull, Sandra, A Basic Government Documents Workshop for Public and School Librarians. Stockton State College, Pomona, New Jersey, 1977. ERIC Document No ED 156 151.

List A con't

Budget Documents Con't:	
Special Analyses, Budget of the United States Government	$ 3.25
The United States Budget in Brief, 1980	2.00
Total cost for budget documents	21.50
*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance	20.00
Census Bureau Catalog	19.00
Census of Housing (for depository's state) price varies, average $ 2.75	2.75
Census of Population (for depository's state) price varies, average $ .50	.50
Code of Federal Regulations	450.00 a yr.
*Congressional Directory	9.25
Congressional District Data Book	12.70
Congressional Record	75.00 a yr.
*County-City Data Book	19.50
Federal Register	50.00 a yr. 8.00 a yr for index
Government Printing Office Sales Publications Reference File	55.00 a yr.
*Historical Statistics of the United States	26.00
*Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications	45.00 a yr.
Numerical Lists and Schedule of Volumes	.75
Slip Laws (Public)	130.00 a yr.
*Statistical Abstract	10.50
Statutes at Large, price varies with each volume average price, $20.00	20.00
Subject Bibliographies (S.B. Series) free	free
Supreme Court Reports, price varies per volume average price $ 10.00	10.00

List A con't

United States Code, price varies per volume (16 volumes) average price, $15.00	$ 240.00 est.
*United States Government Manual	6.50
Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents	15.00 a yr.
Subtotal	$ 1246.95

List B

Franchise Opportunities Handbook	$ 5.50
Occupational Outlook Handbook	11.00
Annual Report of the Council on Environmental Quality	4.25
National Energy Outlook	7.30
Diplomatic List	8.00 a yr.
U.S. Industrial Outlook with Projections to 1983	6.75
Crime in the United States	5.25
Sourcebook of Criminal Justice	8.25
The Economic Report of the President Transmitted to Congress January, 1978	4.00
Digest of Education	4.00
Subtotal	63.80
TOTAL FOR LIST A AND LIST B	$ 1310.75

Another method of figuring out a cash value for depository material is to take the number of documents received on depository for the last year available and multiply by 85¢. This is the average per copy printing cost for a publication shipped to the depository library system according to the Government Printing Office.[1] Many titles included in the depository program are produced by the issuing agency and sent to GPO so this is an average cost.

The Government Printing Office shipped 14,473,656 publications to the depository libraries in FY 78.[1] If the number of depository libraries[2] is divided into the total number of publications shipped, the average number of documents per library is 11,892. At a cost of 85¢ per document, the value would be $ 10,207.10. The sample

[1]From letter to author from Mr. La Barre, Assistant Public Printer, (Superintendent of Documents) March 8, 1979, no. 902-0546.

[2]Biennial Report of Depository Libraries, 1977, question 6.

libraries' costs for materials received last year would be:

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
$20,608.25	$25,118.35	$42,500.00	$25,500.00

These figures are low because only the average printing cost has been used. If all items received had been in the sales program, the cost figure would be higher.

SHARED CATALOGING

Within libraries, cataloging government publications has often been desired but not considered feasible because of the difficulty of the material, lack of verification information, and the large number of publications involved. Since the Government Printing Office joined the OCLC network in 1976, the majority of federal government publications have been cataloged by GPO and verification data is now available. In FY 1979 about 50,000 titles will be cataloged[1] by GPO at an average cost of $25.00 per title for an estimated $1,238,000[1]. Any depository library which belongs to the OCLC network can benefit from this service. For further discussion on the use of OCLC to catalog depository collections, Selma Foster and Nancy Lufburrow's paper entitled "Documents to the People in One Easy Step" presented at the ACRL 1978 national conference should be consulted.

USERS SERVED

Of all the benefits derived from depository status, this area is the most difficult to prove in terms of quantitative analysis. Statistical data gathering is not emphasized in the majority of libraries in this country and documents departments unfortunately are no different.

On the national scene, Mr. Beattie's survey reported that half of the ARL depository libraries on the average answer 40 or more questions a day. This shows heavy use of the documents collections. The sample libraries provided the following information:

How many reference questions were answered with documents for last year available?

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
N/A	9,150 (includes State, UN and maps)	@26,098	8,995

Total reference questions answered in your library for last year available?

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
N/A	N/A	total library system 303,998	N/A

% of total reference questions which used federal documents?

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
N/A	N/A	9%	N/A

[1]letter to author from Mr. La Barre, March 8, 1979

Circulation of federal documents last year available.

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
non-circulating	4,900	8,781	3,910

Total circulation of material in library last year available:

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
N/A	N/A	581,812	282,801

Percentage of documents circulated compared to total circulation:

Yale	Duke	Penn State	UNM
N/A	N/A	2%	1%

The sample is much too small to reach any strong conclusions. The data listed here does agree with the few use studies which have been conducted over the years which evaluate government publications use in academic libraries. As mentioned in the introduction, these figures are misleading because of the federal documents which have been cataloged and put into a circulating collection or in the reference collection. There is no way to retrieve the usage of these documents. This results in lower usage figures for the total documents department.

CONCLUSION

The result of this study reafirms the fact that cost factors of depository status are easier to pin point than the benefits received. Additional study into the benefits from depository libraries is strongly recommended. In addition, more attention to the users served with statistical collection data is strongly recommended.

As academic library budgets continue to shrink, the value of the free materials received will increase. In many case, the documents department will be the only area where answers to reference questions can be obtained.[1] The documents departments need to review their outreach programs and figure out ways to increase the awareness of their clientele in regard to government documents. While the free materials received is invaluable, this value will be lost if the material is not used.

[1] Public Documents Highlights, April, 1979, number 33, page 2.

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